



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Measles.—Very few cases.

Scarlet fever.—The malady is still prevailing in the provinces of Girgenti, Catania, and Catanzaro.

Enteric fever.—Still widely spread in all provinces. An epidemic is reported at Monteriggioni in the province of Siena.

Diphtheria.—Cases are reported at Milan, Pedavena (Belluno), Catania, and at Aci Catena in the province of Catania.

Malarial diseases.—A great number of cases are still reported in the provinces of Rome, Campobasso, Rovigo, Novara, and Milan.

Anthrax.—Three cases at Campobello (Girgenti).

MALTA.

Public health of the island—Study of Mediterranean fever—Malarial fever in Malta.

Consul Grout, Valetta, Malta, reports October 24 as follows:

According to the annual report just published by the public health department of Malta, covering the period from April 1, 1904, to April 1, 1905, the estimated population on April 1, 1905, was 202,070, showing an increase of 5,064, being accounted for as follows: Excess of births over deaths, 2,605; excess of arrivals over departures, 2,459. The birth rate for 1904-5 was 40.45, as against 37.69 for 1903-4. The general death rate, 25.40, was higher than that of the preceding year (24.45). This was due to an increase of mortality among adults from enteric and Mediterranean fevers, tuberculosis, and old age. The rate of deaths under 5 years to 1,000 population at that age was 108.38, against 113.96 for last year. This decrease in the rate was not due to an absolute decrease of mortality among infants, but to an exceptional increase in the infant population. The number of births (8,177) exceeded that of last year by 752. The general death rate during the last ten years has been declining, but is still very high. This seems to be due to infant mortality, and the high infant mortality is intimately connected with the high birth rate. From 1895 to 1902 the birth rate in the Italian provinces hereunder mentioned gave the following averages: Piedmont, 29.4; Sicily, 35.2; Tuscany, 31.9.

The average birth rate for the city of Lyon during the same period was 18.6 and for 76 great towns of England and Wales, 29.1. The average birth rate in these islands for the last ten years has been 38.26. This high birth rate accounts, at least in part, for the high death rate prevailing, although it is probable that overcrowding was another cause. An important factor in the infant mortality is the general ignorance, especially among the lower classes, of the rules of hygiene, infant mortality being more prevalent among the poorer classes than the well-to-do. Poor people here know very little about feeding, nursing, or dressing. The report suggests that, as in England, nurses trained for the purpose be retained to keep in touch with mothers, in order to teach them proper care of children and thus prevent such a great waste of infant life. During the year there were 8 cases of smallpox, 36 cases of chicken pox, 240 cases of whooping cough, 13 cases of measles, 760 cases of influenza, and 233 cases of febricula. While there was a decrease of diphtheria to 97 cases, from 124 reported last year, the statistics show an increase of enteric fever. The total number of cases reported was 207, as against 113

of the preceding year. The number of cases of Mediterranean fever reported during the year was 1,110, as against 753 of the preceding year. There seems to be some relation between temperature and the incidence of this disease. The following table shows the monthly average of cases of Mediterranean fever reported during the last ten years:

	Average cases.	Mean temperature.		Average cases.	Mean temperature.
January.....	31.4	54.3	July.....	81.8	77.6
February.....	25.8	55.3	August.....	82.2	77.9
March.....	27.5	56.6	September.....	60.7	75.0
April.....	30.3	59.8	October.....	61.8	69.0
May.....	41.1	64.3	November.....	50.1	62.0
June.....	51.3	72.0	December.....	50.2	56.0

Of the 1,110 cases of Mediterranean fever reported, 663 were among the civil population, against 573 last year. The cases among the army and navy were 447. With reference to the rise in the number of cases reported this year, it may be pointed out that a considerable percentage was probably not cases of Mediterranean fever. This statement is based upon the fact that out of 114 blood specimens examined only 85 gave a positive reaction. Through the work of the imperial commission, which began in June last and is still going on, two reports have already been published. The commission carefully worked out the biology of the micrococcus and examined the more probable ways in which it may enter the body. The experiments conducted are very carefully described in these reports; but, as further investigations are being made, it is not thought advisable to anticipate any conclusion. It has been found that many goats, upon which the population relies for its milk, are or have been infected, and I am told that it is the opinion of some that much of the Mediterranean fever, which visits us each year, is due to our goat milk. On the other hand, many Maltese physicians, in view of the fact that up to the present time no connection has been found between the fever in the goat and that in the human being, still hold to the theory that imperfect drainage is fully as important, if not more important, as a cause. As an argument, they point to the fact that last year at Sliema, near Valletta, more cases of the fever were found than elsewhere. Since then extensive public drainage works have been completed there, and this year the percentage of cases reported has been no more than normal.

Statistics as to erysipelas, pneumonia, broncho-pneumonia, cardiopathy and bronchitis show slight increases over the previous year. Tubercular diseases are not scheduled, although the number of deaths from tuberculosis reported exceeds by 24 the number shown last year. During August and September, 1904, a number of cases of fever of an unknown type were reported in the vicinity of Wied il Kliegha, and on examination of the patients' blood they were found to be cases of tertian. The matter was inquired into and the conclusion arrived at was that the infection must have been imported from abroad by soldiers stationed at Imtarfa barracks, and that it was subsequently carried to the inhabitants of the neighborhood by mosquitoes (anopheles) breeding in the valley near by. Much attention is being given

to disinfection, revaccination, the care of water service, buildings, and schools. A new sanitary law which came into effect in June, 1904, has strengthened precautions. The efficiency of the local health officials is being increased from year to year by constant study and supervision of local conditions, and it may be said that they are up-to-date and well organized.

MEXICO.

Report from Tampico—Inspection and fumigation of vessels—Mortuary statistics—Sanitary situation improved.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Frick reports, November 13, as follows:

Week ended November 11, 1905.

November 5: Inspected and passed the German steamship *Altenburg*, bound for a port in the United States, via Mexican ports, with 40 in the crew and 3 passengers; vessel sails in general cargo. November 8: Inspected and passed the American steamship *City of Washington*, bound for New York direct, with 62 in the crew and 3 passengers; vessel sails in a small, general cargo. Inspected and passed the British steamship *Chancellor*, bound for Galveston, with 39 in the crew. November 11: Inspected and passed the British steamship *Texan*, bound for New Orleans, via Progreso, with 43 in the crew and 5 passengers; vessel sails in general cargo. November 9: Inspected and passed the British steamship *Craigmuk*, bound for a point north of Hatteras, via Progreso, with 22 in the crew; vessel sails in ballast. November 11: Inspected and passed the British steamship *Greenswood*, bound for Port Ingles, Fla. (Cedar Key quarantine station), with 22 in the crew; vessel sails in ballast. Inspected and passed the Cuban steamship *Bayamo* bound for New York, via Habana; vessel sails with a general cargo and live stock for Habana.

Mortuary report.

Pulmonary tuberculosis, 3; not specified, 1; affection of the mouth, 1; acute bronchitis, 1; intermittent fever, 3; congenital debility, 1; drowned, 1; penetrating wound of the chest, 1; cerebral hemorrhage, 1; total, 13. Mortality rate, 31.80.

The sanitary situation is much improved. The coldest norther of the season reached here the latter half of the past week and still continues, with a decided diminution in the number of flies and mosquitoes.

Report from Veracruz—Inspection and fumigation of vessels—Yellow fever.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Wilson reports, November 11, as follows:

Week ended November 11, 1905:

Vessels inspected and bills of health issued.....	5
Vessels fumigated with sulphur to kill mosquitoes.....	1
Vessels, departing, on which mosquitoes (<i>anopheles</i>) found and killed	1
Vessels, departing, on which mosquitoes (<i>culex</i>) found and killed.....	1
Crew inspected	217
Passengers inspected.....	114

During the week the schooner *Starke*, which came from Pascagoula with a case of yellow fever, as reported last week, was fumigated throughout under my supervision.